

**Note that there may be revisions made to this outline before January, 2015**

HIS 9415B Historical Views of Women in the Western World

January- April 2015

Professor: Katherine M.J. McKenna

Time: Monday 3:30-6:30 pm

Room: Lawson 2270C

Office Hours:

Lawson Hall 1204 11 am-12 pm Thursday in fall term and Monday 1-2 pm in winter term

Lawson Hall 3246 11 am-12 pm Wednesday in fall term and Tuesday 2-3 pm in winter term

or e-mail for an appointment: [kmckenna@uwo.ca](mailto:kmckenna@uwo.ca)

This course is not only the story of how women have lived over time in different contexts and from different perspectives in the history of the western world. It is just as much about how feminist historians have written about the female gender, and about the theoretical debates that have informed their writings. The broad expanse of history covered in this course allows for only some select 'flashpoints' to be examined. These will allow us to focus on key issues both in the historical debate and in the history of women in the western world. This will provide an overview or framework for understanding the complexities of changes in women's roles in the western world over time. This course primarily focuses on Europe and the UK, but major essay projects can be on women's or gender history in any context.

Attendance and preparation for class will be essential. Each student will be marked on their class participation. Everyone will be asked to come with points for discussion on a specific reading in classes where there is no presentation being given. Each class member will be responsible for giving a presentation based on the required class readings for one week. The following week, they will be required to submit a paper based on their presentation of approx 10-12 pages or 2500-3000 words. This will assigned based on student preference in the first week of class.

Students also are required to write a major essay (approx 25 pages, or 6000 words). This can either be based on primary research, or an historiographical paper summarising the literature in a particular area of historical interest. All topics must be approved by the professor, and students are encouraged to discuss their proposed topic in advance of the course start date. A 2-4 page outline of this essay with bibliography must be submitted by February 23. Students will be expected to deliver a 10-15 minute summary of their work in progress to the class on April 6 or (since this is Easter Monday) if everyone agrees, on April 13. The major paper will be due on April 30, 2015.

The mark breakdown will be as follows:

Class Readings Paper	20%
Research Paper	40%
Class Participation	20%
Class Readings Presentation	10%
Presentation of Work in Progress	10%

There are no textbooks for this course, but three sources available in the library are recommended as background readings. They are:

Sue Morgan, ed. *The Feminist History Reader*. London, UK ; New York, NY : Routledge, 2006.

Bonnie S. Anderson and Judith P. Zinsser. *A History of Their Own: Women in Europe from Prehistory to the Present*. New York : Oxford University Press, 2000 (Revised edition).

Renate Bridenthal, Claudia Koonz and Susan Stuard eds. *Becoming Visible: Women in European History*. Boston : Houghton Mifflin, 1987 (Second edition).

Required readings will be available either through the library, or copies will be made available to students in electronic format.

## **CLASS SCHEDULE**

### **1. January 5 Introduction: The Social Construction of History**

Video: Women in the Shadows

### **2. January 12 Theoretical and Empirical Perspectives on Women's/Gender History**

#### **Required Readings:**

Judith M. Bennett. "Feminist History and Women's History." *History Matters: Patriarchy and the Challenge of Feminism*. Philadelphia: University of Pennsylvania Press, 2006, 13-29, 153-5

Sharon Block and David Newman. "What, Where, When and Sometimes Why: Data Mining Two Decades of Women's History Abstracts." *Journal of Women's History* 23, No. 1, 81-109.

Catherine Hall. "Feminism and Feminist History." in *White, Male and Middle-Class: Explorations in Feminism and History*, Cambridge: Polity Press, 1992, 1-26, 33-40.

Sue Morgan. "Introduction: Writing Feminist History: Theoretical Debates and Critical Practices." in

Sue Morgan ed. *The Feminist History Reader*. New York: Oxford, 2006, 1-48.

### **3. January 19 Women in Pre-History and the Ancient World: The Goddess Debate**

Video: The Goddess Remembered

#### **Required Readings:**

Eva Canterella. "Matriarchy in Prehistory, Myth and History." *Pandora's Daughters: The Role and Status of Women in Greek and Roman Antiquity*. Baltimore: John Hopkins, 1981, 11-23.

Mary Condren, "Crushing the Serpent." \**The Serpent and the Goddess: Women, Religion and Power in Celtic Ireland*. San Francisco: Harper and Row, 1989, 23-43.

Maija Gimbutas. "Women and Culture in Goddess-Oriented Old Europe." in Judith Plaskow and Carol Christ, eds. *Weaving the Visions: New Patterns in Feminist Spirituality*. San Francisco: Harper & Row, 1989, 63-71.

Gerda Lerner. "Introduction." "Origins." "A Working Hypothesis." \**The Creation of Patriarchy*. New York: Oxford University Press, 1986. 3-53.

Lynn Meskell. "Goddesses, Gimbutas and 'New Age' Archaeology." *Antiquity* 69, (1995): 74-86.

Rosemary Radford Ruether, "Conclusion." \**Goddesses and the Divine Feminine: A Western Religious History*. Los Angeles: University of California Press, 2005, 299-308.

### **4. January 26 Women in the Middle Ages**

#### **Required Readings:**

Judith M. Bennett. "Public Power and Authority in the Medieval English Countryside." in Mary Erler and Maryanne Kowaleski, eds. *Women and Power in the Middle Ages*. Athens, GA: University of Georgia press, 1988, 18-36.

Martha C. Howell. "A Framework for Understanding Women's Work." "Women's Work and Social Change." *Women, Production and Patriarchy in Late Medieval Cities*. Chicago: University of Chicago Press, 1986, 9-26, 174-83.

Jo Ann McNamara. "Women and Power through the Family Revisited." In Mary C Erler and Maranne Kowalski, eds. *Gendering the Master Narrative: Women and Power in the Middle Ages*. Ithica: Cornell University Press, 2003, 17-30.

Jacqueline Murray. "Thinking About Gender: The Diversity of Medieval Perspectives." in Jennifer

Carpenter and Sally-Beth MacLean. *Power of the Weak: Studies on Medieval Women*. Chicago: University of Chicago Press, 1995, 1-26.

Judith M. Bennett. "Forgetting the Past." *Gender and History* 20, No.3 (2008) 669-77.

## **5. February 2 Women in the Renaissance and After: A Period of Decline?**

### **Required Readings:**

Joan Kelly. "Did Women Have a Renaissance?" "Early Feminist Theory and the *Querelle des Femmes*." *Women, History, Theory: The Essays of Joan Kelly*. Chicago: University of Chicago Press, 1984, 19-50, 65-109.

Merry E. Wiesner. "Women's Defense of Their Public Role." in Mary Beth Rose, ed. *Women in The Middle Ages and Renaissance*. Syracuse: Syracuse University Press, 1986, 1-27.

Susan Cahn. "Women and the New Economic Order." *Industry of Devotion: The Transformation of Women's Work in England, 1500-1660*. New York: Cornell University Press, 1987, 33-63.

Merry Wiesner-Hanks. "Women's History and Social History: Are Structures Necessary?" in Ann J. Shutte, Thomas Kuehn and Silvana Menchi, eds. *Time, Space and Women's Lives in Early Modern Europe*. Kirksville, MI: Truman State University Press, 2001, 2-16

Marjorie Keniston McIntosh. "Conclusion." \**Working Women in English Society, 1300-1620*. New York: Cambridge University Press, 2005, 250-3.

## **6. February 9 Witchcraft: The 'Women's Holocaust'?**

Video: The Burning Times

### **Required Readings:**

Robin Briggs. "Women as Victims?: Witches, Judges and the Community." *French History* 5, (1991): 438-50.

Marianne Hester. "The Conclusion." *Lewd Women and Wicked Witches: A Study in the Dynamics of Male Domination*, New York: Routledge, 1992, 198-204.

Carolyn Merchant. "Nature as Disorder: Women as Witches." *The Death of Nature: Women, Ecology and the Scientific Revolution*, San Francisco: Harper and Row, 1980, 127-148.

Merry E. Wiesner. "Witchcraft." *Women and Gender in Early Modern Europe*. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 1993, 218-238.

Elsbeth Whitney. "The Witch 'She'/ The Historian 'He': Gender and the Historiography of the European Witch Hunts." *Journal of Women's History* 7 (1995): 77-101.

## **February 16 Reading Week**

### **7. February 23 The Enlightenment Debate on Women**

#### **Essay Proposals Due**

#### **Required Readings:**

Barbara Caine. "Feminism and the Rights of Women." *English Feminism, 1780-1980*. Oxford: Oxford University Press, 1997, 11-43

Dena Goodman. "Women and the Enlightenment." in Bridenthal et al, 233-264.

Carolyn Merchant. "Dominion Over Nature." *The Death of Nature: Women, Ecology and the Scientific Revolution*, San Francisco: Harper and Row, 1980, 164-191.

Karen Offen. "Reclaiming the European Enlightenment for Feminism." in Tjitske Akkerman and Siep Stuurman, eds. *Perspectives on Feminist Political Thought in European History*. New York: Routledge, 1998, 85-103.

Jean Jacques Rousseau. *The Social Contract*. (1762) and *Émile; Or, On Education*. (1762) excerpted handout.

Mary Wollstonecraft. *A Vindication of the Rights of Woman*. (1792), excerpted handout.

### **8. March 2 Early Victorianism**

#### **Required Readings:**

Leonore Davidoff. "Gender and the 'Great Divide': Public and Private in British Gender History." *Journal of Women's History* 15, No. 1 (2003): 11-27.

Catherine Hall. "The Early Formation of Victorian Domestic Ideology." in *White, Male and Middle-Class: Explorations in Feminism and History*, Cambridge: Polity Press, 1992, 75-93.

Catherine Hall. "Strains in the 'Firm of Wife, Children and Friends': Middle-Class Women and Employment in Early Nineteenth-Century England." in *Ibid.* 172-204.

Katherine M.J. McKenna. "Conduct Literature, The Ideology of 'True Womanhood' and Middle-

Class Women, 1765-1840." unpublished paper.

Carroll Smith-Rosenberg. "The Female World of Love and Ritual: Relations Between Women in Nineteenth Century America." *Disorderly Conduct: Visions of Gender in Victorian America*. New York: Oxford University Press, 1986, 53-76.

## **9. March 9 Case Studies of Middle-Class Victorian Women**

### **Essay Proposals Due**

#### **Required Readings:**

Barbara Caine, "Francis Power Cobbe." "Josephine Butler." *Victorian Feminists*. Oxford: Oxford University Press, 1992, 103-149; 150-195.

Katherine M.J. McKenna. "'The Union Between Faith and Good Works': The Life of Harriet Dobbs Cartwright, 1808-1887." in Elizabeth Gillian Muir and Marilyn Färdig Whitely, eds. *Changing Roles of Women Within the Christian Church in Canada*. Toronto: University of Toronto Press, 1995, 284-298.

Mary Poovey, "Covered But Not Bound: Caroline Norton and the 1857 Matrimonial Causes Act." "A Housewifely Woman: The Social Construction of Florence Nightingale." *Uneven Developments: The Ideological Work of Gender in Mid-Victorian England*. Chicago: University of Chicago Press, 1988, 51-88; 164-198.

## **10. March 16 The First Women's Movement**

Video: Women on the March

#### **Required Readings:**

Valerie Bryson, "Liberalism and Beyond: Mainstream Feminism in the Nineteenth Century."

"Mainstream Feminism: The Vote and After, 1880s-1939." *Feminist Political Theory: An Introduction*. London: Macmillan, 1992, 36-66; 84-108.

Ellen Carol Dubois. "A Vindication of Women's Rights." *Woman Suffrage and Women's Rights*. New York: New York University Press, 1998, 283-99.

John Stuart Mill. *The Subjection of Women*. 1869, excerpted handout.

Veronica Strong-Boag, "'Ever a Crusader': Nellie McClung, First-Wave Feminist." in Veronica Strong-Boag and Anita Clair Fellman, eds. *Rethinking Canada: The Promise of Women's History*.

Toronto: Oxford University Press, 1997 (3<sup>rd</sup> Edition), 271-284.

Vicinus, Martha. "Male Space and Women's Bodies: The Suffrage Movement." *Independent Women: Work and Community for Single Women 1850-1920*. Chicago: University of Chicago Press, 1985, 247-280.

## **11. March 23 The Historical Construction of Love Between Women**

### **Required Readings:**

Harriette Andreadis. "The Erotics of Female Friendship in Early Modern England." in Susan Frye and Karen Robertson, eds. *Maids and Mistresses, Cousins and Queens: Women's Alliances in Early Modern England*. New York: Oxford, 1999, 241-258.

Judith M. Bennett. "The L-Word in Women's History." *History Matters: Patriarchy and the Challenge of Feminism*. Philadelphia: University of Pennsylvania Press, 2006, 108-127.

Judith C. Brown. "Lesbian Sexuality in Medieval and Early Modern Europe." in Martin Bauml Duberman, Martha Vicinius and George Chauncey, Jr., eds. *Hidden From History: Reclaiming the Gay and Lesbian Past*. New York: New American Library, 1989, 67-75.

Lillian Faderman. *\*Surpassing the Love of Men: Romantic Friendship and Love Between Women from the Renaissance to the Present*. New York: William Morrow, 1998, 239-53, 314-331.

## **12. March 30 The Legacy of Colonialism**

Research Paper Proposals Due

### **Required Readings:**

Margaret Strobel and Marjorie Bingham. "The Theory and Practice of Women's History and Gender History in Global Perspective." in Bonnie G. Smith, ed. *Women's History in Global Perspective Volume I*. Urbana and Chicago: University of Illinois Press, 2004, 9-47.

Himani Bannerji. "Politics and the Writing of History." in Ruth Roach Pierson and Nupur Chaudhuri, eds. *Nation, Empire, Colony: Historicizing Gender and Race*. Bloomington: Indiana University Press, 1998, 287-301.

Antoinette M. Burton. "The White Women's Burden: British Feminists and 'The Indian Woman,' 1865-1915." in \*Nupur Chaudhuri and Margaret Strobel, eds. *Western Women and Imperialism*. Bloomington: Indiana University Press, 1992, 137-57.

Nell Irvin Painter. "Soul Murder and Slavery: Toward a Fully Loaded Cost Accounting." Linda K.

Kerber, Alice Kessler-Harris and Kathryn Kish Sklar, eds. *U.S. History as Women's History: New Feminist Essays*. Chapel Hill: University of North Carolina Press, 1995, 125-146.

### **13. April 6**

### **Conclusions and Presentation of Essay Topics**

(Followed by pizza dinner at Grad Club- professor's treat!)

#### **Academic Offences**

Scholastic offences are taken seriously and students are directed to read the appropriate policy, specifically, the definition of what constitutes a Scholastic Offence, at the following Web site: [http://www.uwo.ca/univsec/handbook/appeals/scholastic\\_discipline\\_grad.pdf](http://www.uwo.ca/univsec/handbook/appeals/scholastic_discipline_grad.pdf)

All required papers may be subject to submission for textual similarity review to the commercial plagiarism-detection software under license to the University for the detection of plagiarism. All papers submitted for such checking will be included as source documents in the reference database for the purpose of detecting plagiarism of papers subsequently submitted to the system. Use of the service is subject to the licensing agreement, currently between The University of Western Ontario and Turnitin.com (<http://www.turnitin.com>).

#### **Health and Wellness**

As part of a successful graduate student experience at Western, we encourage students to make their health and wellness a priority. Western provides several on campus health-related services to help you achieve optimum health and engage in healthy living while pursuing your graduate degree. For example, to support physical activity, all students, as part of their registration, receive membership in Western's Campus Recreation Centre. Numerous cultural events are offered throughout the year. Please check out the Faculty of Music web page <http://www.music.uwo.ca/>, and our own McIntosh Gallery <http://www.mcintoshgallery.ca/>. Information regarding health- and wellness-related services available to students may be found at <http://www.health.uwo.ca/>

Students seeking help regarding mental health concerns are advised to speak to someone they feel comfortable confiding in, such as their faculty supervisor, their program director (graduate chair), or other relevant administrators in their unit. Campus mental health resources may be found at [http://www.health.uwo.ca/mental\\_health/resources.html](http://www.health.uwo.ca/mental_health/resources.html)

To help you learn more about mental health, Western has developed an interactive mental health learning module, found here: [http://www.health.uwo.ca/mental\\_health/module.html](http://www.health.uwo.ca/mental_health/module.html). This module is 30 minutes in length and provides participants with a basic understanding of mental health issues and of available campus and community resources. Topics include stress, anxiety, depression, suicide and eating disorders. After successful completion of the module, participants receive a certificate confirming their participation.